

Serial No. 10/057,757

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 12, and 15 are pending in the instant application. Claims 3, 5, 12, and 15 are amended in order to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added by the amendments, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments are for clarification purposes only and do not require additional search or consideration. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 3-5, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,468 to Harrison. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 3 relates to a method carried out in an information processing system that includes, *inter alia*, reading an original version of management information, ***stored on the data storage device to be verified***, and a first and a second encrypted version of the management information, ***the management information identifying the data storage device***, and decrypting the first and the second encrypted version of the management information, the first and the second encrypted versions of the management information system being encrypted by different encryption keys. The method of claim 3 also includes comparing the original version of the management information and the respective first and second decrypted versions of the management information. In claim 3, ***the data storage device subjected to verification is determined as valid when the comparison result indicates that the original version of the management information and both the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship with each other.***

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Harrison relates to the verification of files stored on a data storage device using an encryption and decryption scheme. Harrison apparently is concerned with the protection of files on a disk (Harrison; Abstract). Harrison apparently discusses encrypting files (Harrison; col. 4, line 1) and decrypting files (Harrison; col. 2, lines 6-9). In Harrison, the data which the Examiner asserts discloses the management information is apparently directed to files (Harrison; figures 1 and 4).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to the verification of the storage device itself (Specification; page 1, lines 8-10, page 9, lines 6-15, and figure 1). In the instant application, the management information may be a product ID of the data storage device (Specification; page 9, line 10). As such, the *management information* recited in the claims of the present application are not ordinary data files, but are *identifiers of the data storage device*. The present invention has the advantage discussed in the Specification of providing a verifiable identifier of a data storage device for purposes of identifying the production lot where a defective product originated for purposes of quality control and/or service (Specification; page 1, lines 13-15). The amended claims indicate that *the management information identifies the data storage device*. It is respectfully submitted that Harrison does not disclose or suggest this feature, and therefore for at least this reason claim 3 is allowable.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to include the feature of the management information identifies the data storage device, and therefore for at least the same reasons claim 3 is allowable, the other independent claims are also allowable.

All of the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

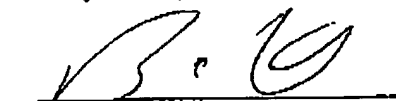
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The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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